



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BALTIMORE DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1715
BALTIMORE, MD 21203-1715

CENAB-OP-N

17 August 2011

SUBJECT: Maintenance Dredging of the Lower Thorofare Federal Navigation Channel, Somerset County, Maryland

PUBLIC NOTICE CENAB-OP-NN-111-04

FOR WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Pursuant to Sections 313 and 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 USC 1323 and 1344) NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT pending the availability of funds, the Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposes to perform maintenance dredging of the Lower Thorofare Federal channel, Deal Island, Somerset County, Maryland.

The work proposed at this time consists of performing maintenance dredging of the Lower Thorofare to maintain the federal channel 60 feet wide and 7 feet deep from Tangier Sound to and including a mooring basin of the same depth, 300 feet long and 100 feet wide (Enclosure). The project length is 4,700 feet. Approximately 48,000 cubic yards of material will be removed to restore project depth plus 2 feet of allowable over depth. The dredged material consists primarily of sand, silt, shells, and combinations thereof. Approximately 34,000 cubic yards, composed of the coarser grained material, will be placed along Pin Point Island, shown in the enclosure, to restore the island within the approximate historic footprint of Little Deal Island. A stone sill will be used to help contain the dredged material and to provide protection for the restored island. The remaining 14,000 cubic yards, containing the finer material, will be placed on a 4.5 acre upland disposal area, which is also shown in the enclosure. A dike will be constructed to contain the dredge material on site.

A review of data generated for preparation of the environmental assessment indicates that no significant environmental impacts are expected and that preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation addressing the environmental issues of the dredging and placement operation will be prepared. The proposed maintenance dredging complies with and will be conducted in a manner consistent with the approved Maryland Coastal Zone Management Program. The proposed project also complies with the Endangered Species Act and provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended, as such, will not have any adverse affect on endangered species or essential fish habit for federally managed species.

Maintenance of the project is being coordinated with the following Federal, State and Local agencies: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service; Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Maryland Department of the Environment; Maryland Historical Trust and Somerset County Commissioners.

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The decision whether to accomplish the work proposed in this public notice will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed work on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for the protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among those are conservation, aesthetics, fish and wildlife values, general environmental concerns, economics, historic values, navigation, energy needs, recreation, safety, water quality, food production, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. The work will not be accomplished unless it is found to be in the public interest.

Designation of the proposed placement sites for dredged material associated with this Federal project shall be made through the application of guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, in conjunction with the Secretary of the Army. If these guidelines alone prohibit the designation of the proposed placement sites, any potential impairment to the maintenance of navigation including any economic impact on navigation and anchorage which would result from the failure to use these placement sites will also be considered.

Any person, who has an interest or may be affected, by the placement of this dredged material may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715, within 30 days of the date of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest which may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by this activity. The environmental documentation for this project is anticipated to be an Environmental Assessment and a Finding of No Significant Impact, which will be available upon request.

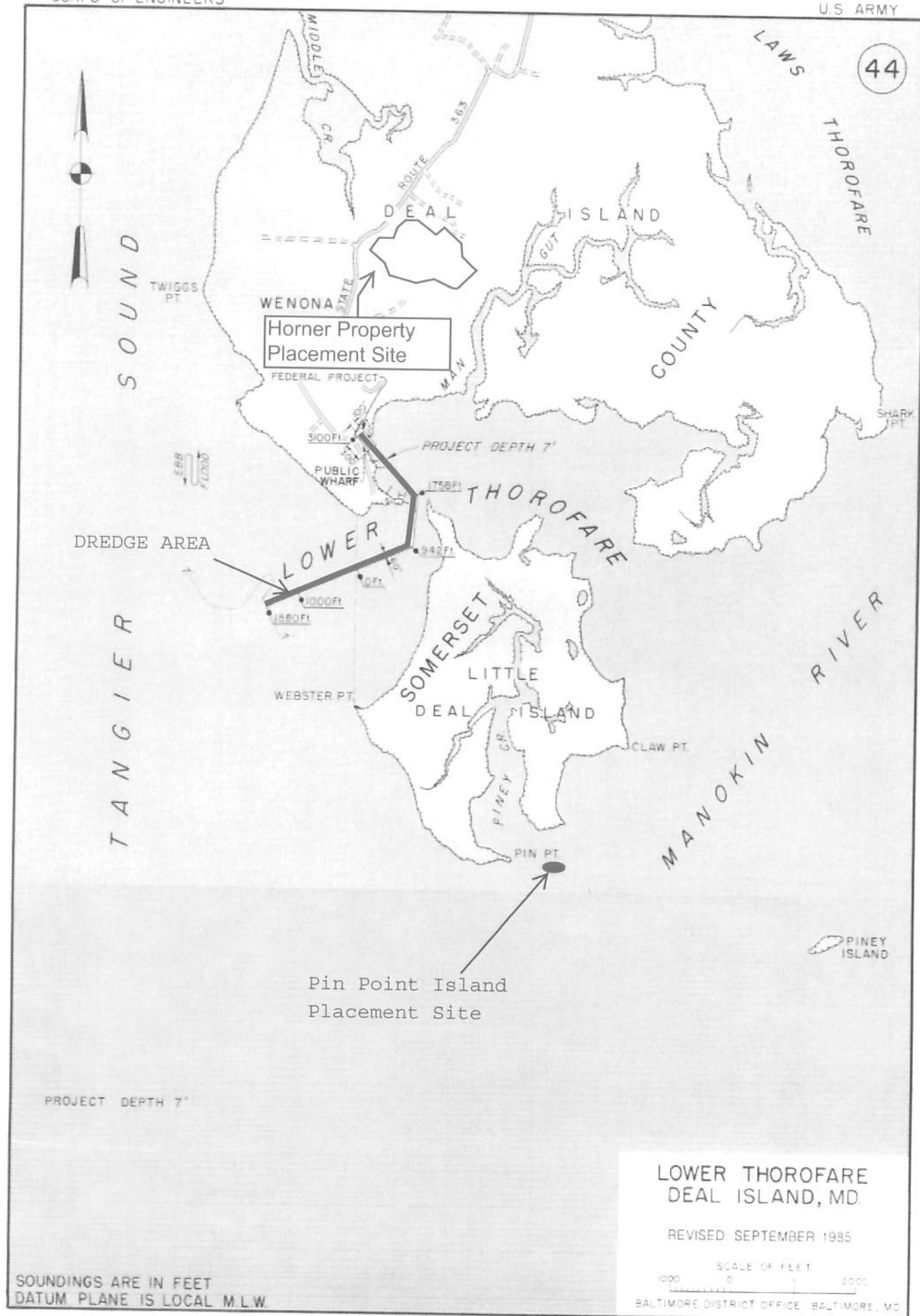
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, has applied for Water Quality Certification from the State of Maryland. Any comments relating to water quality concerns should also be forwarded to the Maryland Department of the Environment, Standards and Certification, Montgomery Park Business Center, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 430, Baltimore, Maryland 21230, within 30 days of the date of this notice.

It is requested that you communicate the foregoing information concerning proposed work to any persons known by you to be interested and whom not being known to this office, do not receive a copy of this notice. Questions regarding the content of this notice may be brought to the attention of Ms. Tiffany Burroughs of this office at 410-962-5677.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Enclosure


Marie G. Burns
Chief, Operations Division



ENCL